**BRaid Managers report September 2019**

**Braided River Partnership Project:**

* Trustpower came to the advanced trapping workshop in Hanmer Springs in July
* Contact maintained regularly with interested parties through social media, newsletters
* Sent proposal with a range of options to way2go helicopters (courtesy of Nick)
* Waiting for replies from other organisations re this year’s accreditation
* Business in Dunedin has offered to sponsor a pair of dotterels in South Bay

**Funding**

* End of financial year report to ECan sent
* Next report to Lotto due mid-2020
* ECan have generously funded us for another 3 years to support the website, social media, and other communications strategies including seminars and workshop
* Boffa Miskell have offered to fund a braided rivers seminar in 2020. Costs can be spread between them (running costs) and ECan (wages)
* Awaiting quote from Mike Bell for SBBG control before applying for funding from (possibly) RATA foundation or other to help with costs

**Education/outreach/support**

* **Three newsletters** sent since the last meeting, delivered to 188 verified emails (this is down from 190 emails, however I have removed about 25 ‘bouncing’ email addresses while we’ve had about 21 new subscribers). Newsletters are archived here: <https://braidedrivers.org/news/>
* **Website**: completely rebuilt. The original site was barely functioning as it was not designed to have so much material. Most pages were dated in any case, with updates and recent research, surveys and reports needed to be added. I’ve removed the calendar as virtually no one used it.
* **Facebook** **posts**: approximately 158 posts since the last meeting. Posts reach between 150- 37,000 people, depending on the topic. Sadly, bad news garners the most attention. However, the ‘wrybills have returned’ post reached 3,300.
* **2019 Braided Rivers Seminar:** packed house, good food (special shout out to Karikaas cheese), great talkspresentations , all available on the website under ‘references’ in the relevant pages, and also summary links here: <https://braidedrivers.org/conservation/2019-seminar/>
* **BRIDGE project**: The Court of Appeals (Dewhirst Land Company Ltd v Canterbury Regional Council decision) is still underway but it does not look good, as judges are suggesting farmers are the best ones to decide where braided riverbanks are.
* **Wrybill: Bird of the Year 2019.** Initiative led by Miranda Shorebird Trust; we will support it through social media.
* **Boffa Miskell:** weed contractors given 2-page river bird ID kit; discussion underway about contractors leaning trapping

**Correspondence In:**

* Notification from Environment Southland that our application to have Russell Lupins declared a pest species under the Pest Management Plan was declined on the basis that it’s the concern of the Ministry for Primary Industries (which says it’s the concern of Regional Councils)

**Correspondence Out:**

* Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Fund thanking them for their funding

**Matters arising from previous meeting**

* **Case for better management of smaller rivers –** recommend still tabling this until the outcome of the appeal against the High Court decision, Dewhirst Land Company Ltd v Canterbury Regional Council decision.
* **Historic reports of bird counts** – no further information as we are not in a position to replicate other work or the database compiled and maintained by Andy Grant at DOC.
* **Awareness signage** – copies of signs are available online here: <https://braidedrivers.org/conservation/signs/>

**Monitoring/bird counts**

* Wilberforce/Harper bird counts 3-8 Nov. 2019: to be discussed
* All reports and monitoring sent to me are loaded under the respective ‘river’ names on the website and also forwarded to Andy Grant at DOC. Where reports are from within the main catchment of primary rivers they are listed on the main river pages. **Please remember to include the date and exact location.**

**General Business**

* Recommendations from NIWA and Productivity Commission on the need to give river ‘room to move’ as a risk-aversion management strategy now underway.
* The RMA and NZ Biodiversity Strategy workshops now taking place
* Thanks to Rice Speir, BRaid will have a stand at the  Environmental Compliance Conference November 13-14